

over, they would disassemble the rides and return them to Tampa. The early fairs included contests in fruit packing, orange peeling and eating. In addition, there were car races and rodeos.

In 1948, the late Hazel Whitman, also a charter member, started the Miss Pasco County Pageant as a fundraiser for the fair. "Heart of Florida" was added as the fair's logo about 10 years later and is still used today.

The association originally sold memberships for \$25 to raise money to host the fair. It is unique because throughout the years, it has remained a non-profit organization supported by its membership. The Fair is a great example of how entrepreneurs and warm-hearted individuals can make a difference in the community, without relying on the government for support.

Madam, Speaker, the Pasco County Fair is a beloved institution throughout the entire region. Thousands of area residents have spent their childhoods on the carnival rides and have fond memories of competing in the beauty pageant and eating contests. This year the Fair will celebrate its 60th consecutive year of offering a week of fun and excitement for my Pasco County constituents. I wish the Fair organizers best wishes during this year's Fair and hope that they will continue their efforts for another 60 years into the future.

CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF  
ISAAC RICHARD LESLIE

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 12, 2007*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am happy to congratulate Ian and Carolyn Leslie of Beaufort, South Carolina, on the birth of their new baby boy. Isaac Richard Leslie was born in Beaufort on February 7, 2007, at 4:06 p.m., weighing 8 pounds and 3 ounces. He has been born into a loving home, where he will be raised by parents who are devoted to his well-being and bright future.

His father, Ian Leslie, serves as City Editor for The Beaufort Gazette, one of the biggest and most historic newspapers in South Carolina. His mother, Carolyn Leslie, is a teacher at the E C Montessori School in Beaufort. They are both natives of New York, but have chosen South Carolina as their new home. I congratulate the Leslie family on Isaac's birth.

PELL GRANT EQUITY ACT OF 2007

**HON. GEORGE MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 12, 2007*

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues Rep. BUCK MCKEON, Rep. RUBEN HINOJOSA and Rep. RIC KELLER to introduce the Pell Grant Equity Act of 2007.

As we all know, Pell Grants are the cornerstone of our federal student aid system providing approximately \$13 billion for more than 5 million undergraduate students, mostly from low-income households.

Unfortunately, hundreds of thousands of low-income students, who would otherwise

qualify for a full Pell Grant, have been unable to do so because of the current "tuition sensitivity" rule.

"Tuition sensitivity" is intended to reduce the Pell Grant for students attending higher education institutions that charge very low tuition.

Current law punishes very low cost schools and the students who attend those schools by reducing the Pell Grant aid they can receive.

The Pell Grant Equity Act addresses this imbalance by eliminating the discriminating "tuition sensitivity" provision in the law and ensuring students continued eligibility for the full amount of aid they would have otherwise received.

According to the Congressional Research Service, the students most negatively affected by this policy are "the poorest students attending institutions with very low tuition charges."

Since 2001, tuition and fees at public colleges and universities have exploded, increasing by 41 percent after inflation.

The exception to the rule of rising tuition and fees, are California's community colleges. This year, instead of seeing an increase in tuition and fees, California community college students' enrollment fees witnessed a decrease from \$26 to \$20 per unit.

The California community college system, and any other college system that experience cost reductions, is unfairly penalized by the "tuition sensitivity" provision.

Based on estimates from the Chancellor's office of the California community college system, more than 260,000 California community college students are expected to receive reduced Pell Grants because of the tuition sensitivity provision.

Rather than limit the Pell Grant—our goal is to expand it, which is what we accomplish through the Pell Grant Equity Act.

We must ensure that every student in this country has the opportunity to pursue their educational dreams, particularly those from low- and middle-income families.

There is no goal more important for our nation's students and families, for our economy and our future.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 982, THE  
ADVANCE DEMOCRACY ACT OF 2007

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 12, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to inform my colleagues that today I, along with FRANK WOLF, DAVID PRICE, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN and a number of other members have introduced the Advancing Democratic Values, Addressing Non-Democratic Countries and Enhancing (ADVANCE) Democracy Act of 2007. In the 109th Congress, precursor legislation spurred the Administration to start a number of changes in its approach, including adding capacity to the Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor, and creating an Advisory Committee on Democracy Promotion. H.R. 982 builds on that momentum by continuing to try to achieve five major reforms. H.R. 982

(1) Requires the Secretary to develop long-term strategies for democracy promotion and human rights protection for non-democratic

and democratic transition countries and countries where there are severe human rights violations, and focuses such strategies on building democratic institutions.

(2) Requires that such strategies be developed in consultation with individuals and groups from each particular country that support democratic values and that such strategies be carried out in cooperation with our friends and allies and with international organizations.

(3) Requires training on democracy promotion and human rights protection throughout the careers of members of the Foreign Service and other State Department employees.

(4) Creates financial and promotion incentives for State Department employees who excel in democracy promotion and human rights protection.

(5) Requires that Ambassadors and other senior members of the Foreign Service do more to reach out to foreign audiences and engage robustly with government officials, foreign media, non-governmental organizations and students to have serious discussions about U.S. foreign policy, particularly that related to democracy and human rights.

The ADVANCE Democracy Act also contains a number of other additional reforms, such as requiring the establishment of an office to serve as a contact point for emerging activists, the development of guidelines for when nongovernmental organizations and contractors are appropriate implementing partners, and efforts to foster more multilateral cooperation on democracy promotion. The central thrust of these reforms is to ensure that democracy promotion is based on a long-term, multilateral approach that is created in consultation with those who are risking their lives for dignity and freedom and that does not ignore the most difficult countries.

Madam Speaker, the promotion of democracy and the protection of human rights are two sides of the same coin. We all recognize that these must be fundamental components of U.S. foreign policy, just as we realize that they are not the only components of U.S. foreign policy. We recognize the tension between these and other imperatives, but must always remember that building of democratic institutions and forward movement on democracy and human rights is always in U.S. interest, even if such movement is not as fast.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this important reform initiative.

TRIBUTE TO THE HISTORY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NATION'S CAPTIVOL

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 12, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the role of African Americans in the Capitol's history precedes our arrival as elected officials. In fact, the very foundations on which we stand bear witness to the involvement of African American people. Some names became famous, such as Benjamin Banneker. He was a free African American mathematician who helped layout our capital city 1791.